

Jim Doyle
Governor

Kevin R. Hayden
Secretary



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health and Family Services

DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE ACCESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY
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December 11, 2007

Dear Pharmacy Provider:

As part of the State budget, the Legislature directed the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) to save money on pharmacy services for members enrolled in Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus. To meet this directive, there will be a change in pharmacy services for members enrolled in Wisconsin Medicaid HMOs (now known as BadgerCare Plus HMOs), SSI HMOs, and most special managed care programs, except for the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)/Partnership. We are committed to working with providers, advocacy groups, and members affected by this change.

Currently, HMOs are responsible for managing pharmacy services for its members. Effective for dates of service (DOS) on and after February 1, 2008, pharmacy services for managed care members will be provided directly by Medicaid. Certain pharmacy-related supplies, such as diabetic supplies, will be affected.

As a result of this directive, providers will have one set of policies and procedures to follow when providing pharmacy services for members enrolled in Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus. In addition, DHFS will be able to collect federal Medicaid rebates and State supplemental rebates from drug manufacturers.

The DHFS will provide a continuity of care transition period from February 1, 2008, to April 1, 2008, in an effort to ensure no interruption in service for members. During this transition, Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus will waive PA policies related to the Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus Preferred Drug List (PDL), brand medically necessary, and diagnosis restrictions for managed care members. However, effective for DOS on and after April 2, 2008, all policies for drugs will apply for new prescriptions and refills for managed care enrollees. Pharmacy providers should work with prescribers to either change a member's prescription or assist in submitting a PA request. Pharmacy providers are reminded that the Pharmaceutical Care enhanced dispensing fee is available to help defray the cost.

A future *BadgerCare Plus Update* will contain more detailed information about drug coverage, pharmacy-related supplies, and PA requirements for fee-for-service members. Providers may call Provider Services at (800) 947-9627 or (608) 221-9883 with questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Helgerson".

Jason A. Helgerson
Medicaid Director